

Daily Life in a Mission



An Integrated Curriculum for Intermediate Grades

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
2202 Roosevelt Avenue
San Antonio Texas 78210



FOREWORD

This guide was developed for San Antonio Missions National Historical Park by the South Texas Rural Collaborative for Excellence in Science Teaching (RCEST) at Our Lady of the Lake University. These units were developed and field-tested by classroom teachers.

Purpose:

Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills stipulates the study of Texas history in fourth grade. This guide includes interdisciplinary activities for intermediate schools to provide an integrated focus on the Spanish missions and will assist teachers to maximize the benefits of a trip to San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

Topics:

*Units include food, soap, bricks, toys, and dyes used in early Texas by mission inhabitants. You may pick and choose units that are best suited for your class. We recommend that your students start their study by viewing the video, *Gente de Razón*, which is for sale at the park. They will gain an understanding of the history and culture of the Spanish missions before moving to science and math topics.*

Features:

- ◆ *Activities are correlated with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) in science, mathematics, social studies, and language arts.*
- ◆ *The instructional method includes pre-visit, visit, and post-visit activities, utilizing the 5E instructional model adapted from the Biological Sciences Curriculum Study.*
- ◆ *Teachers earn professional development training by attending the workshop for this curriculum.*

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*National Park Foundation
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
Los Compadres de San Antonio Missions National Historical Park
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MAKING RESERVATIONS

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park is a popular field trip for teachers and students alike. Missions San Juan and Espada are the primary sites involved in your study of A Day in the Life of the Mission. We highly recommend making reservations for early in the week and for early in the school year. Most schools opt to visit on Thursdays and Fridays in April and May. As a result, a large number of classes visiting the park at any one time may impact the learning experience we have designed in this curriculum.

HOURS

The missions are open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. They are closed Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

ADMISSION

Free

RESERVATIONS

Reservations to visit any of the missions in relation to this intermediate school curriculum should be made at least two weeks in advance. We strongly recommend not trying to visit all four missions in one day. Reservations are accepted by mail, e-mail, fax, and phone. Please call for a registration form. Written confirmation will be mailed to the teacher.

Written requests for information should be addressed to:

Group Reservations

San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

*2202 Roosevelt Avenue
San Antonio Texas 78210*

Phone: (210) 534-8875, extension 258

Fax: (210) 534-1106

Email: <saan_education@nps.gov>

TRAVEL

Please allow adequate time to travel from your school to the first mission you visit. A map for your driver will be provided with your confirmation letter. Bus parking is available at Mission San José. At the other three missions, parking is available in a section of the main parking lot. Allow 20-30 minutes for your class to board the bus and travel to another mission.

CHAPERONES:

A ratio of one adult or teacher for every 10 students is required. Chaperones should be briefed on the park's rules and regulations and their duties during the field trip before leaving the school. Please arrange for chaperones, students, and teachers to wear nametags during the visit.

RESTROOMS

An adequate number of restrooms are available at Missions Concepción and San José. Missions San Juan and Espada, however, have only one restroom for boys and one for girls. Water fountains are found at each site.

ACCESSIBILITY

If members of your group have special needs, please inform us when making your reservation. Accessible restrooms are available at all mission sites and the Visitor Center.

DRESS RECOMMENDATIONS:

Visitors should dress in casual clothing and wear comfortable shoes. A sweater or jacket is recommended in cool weather and a hat is recommended in warm weather, as the class will be spending much of its time outside.

LUNCH

While picnics are not allowed inside the mission compounds, facilities for groups under 25 are available at the missions on a first-come, first-served basis. Your group is responsible for cleaning up the area after you are finished. There are no trash receptacles available, therefore trash must be returned to the school for disposal.

The picnic area adjacent to the Visitor Center at San Jose is on a first-come, first-served basis. Picnic facilities are also available at nearby city and county parks.

FIRST AID and ASSISTANCE

Please contact a park employee or volunteer, or go to the Visitor Center at each mission for assistance.

TEACHER WORKSHOPS

Workshops for educators are offered throughout the year. Call for more information and a schedule. In addition, the Spanish Colonial Bookstore and the park library are available resources for your use.

MISSION ETIQUETTE:

The following information should be shared with both chaperones and students.

- 1. Students are “in school”, so school and classroom rules are still in effect while visiting the park.*
- 2. Students are welcome to enter the church, but please do so quietly and sit only in the pews.*
- 3. Students should leave any artifact they see where it is and notify a Park Ranger of its location.*
- 4. Students should have their feet firmly planted on the ground and their hands in their pockets. The stone walls are old and fragile. Sitting, climbing, touching and leaning against the walls hastens the deterioration of these historic resources.*
- 5. Students should have a clipboard or notebook on which to write, rather than use the walls for a hard surface.*
- 6. Students should pick up and throw away any trash they see.*
- 7. Students should stay with their assigned chaperone at all times.*
- 8. Students should observe, explore, listen, and smell.*
- 9. Students should ask questions.*

SAFETY

- Stay with your assigned chaperone.*
- Do not climb trees or walls.*
- Watch out for fire ants.*
- Watch your step, walkways are uneven, and slippery when wet.*
- Poison ivy is in the wooded areas; please stay on established trails.*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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